



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 6E
PO Box 93020 Brentwood Station, Washington, DC 20090

April 19, 2021

Muriel Bowser
Mayor
John Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Resolution in Support of Long-Term and Short-Term Solutions to Homelessness in the District of Columbia

Dear Mayor Bowser:

On April 6, 2021, at the duly noticed and regularly scheduled meeting of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E (“ANC 6E” or “Commission”) and with a quorum of 7 out of seven Commissioners and the public present, ANC 6E approved the following resolution by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

ANC 6E is home to two encampments of people experiencing homelessness: the encampment at New Jersey Ave and O St NW; and the Seaton Elementary School encampment on the 1500 block of 10th St NW. Each of these encampments faces unique challenges that require immediate attention:

- The Department of General Services and the Department of Parks and Recreation are currently planning a \$1.3M rehabilitation project for the New Jersey Avenue and O Street NW Park, which will displace the current encampment occupants, yet 6E has not been made aware of plans for relocating these residents in a way that meets their needs.
- The Seaton Elementary School encampment is located on school property and abutting the schoolyard fence. Parents and faculty have raised concerns about risks to the health and safety of the students.

While permanent supportive housing is a long-term goal, there are options available right now that could provide immediate relief to unhoused residents.

Given the details described above, ANC 6E issues the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 6E expresses thanks to the Mayor and DC Council to for the recent decision to expand PEP-V program and associated wrap-around support services for individuals experiencing homelessness to meet the full needs of this community in 6E and throughout the city;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 6E supports significant federal and local investment to end homelessness and reimagine a more humane emergency shelter system;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 6E calls on the Mayor and DC Council consider creative, short-term housing solutions, such as temporarily providing housing in currently vacant apartment buildings as noted in the “Vacant to Virus Reduction” proposal.¹, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 6E calls on the Mayor to immediately begin working with residents of the encampments at New Jersey Avenue and O Street NW and the 1500 Block of 10th Street NW, surrounding neighbors, and homeless service providers to identify and implement equitable solutions that accomplish the following:

- Improve the living conditions for people experiencing homelessness with regard to health, safety, sanitation, and access to essential services;
- Improve the peace, quiet, and enjoyment of public space for surrounding neighbors, including abatement of noise, litter, and vermin concerns;
- Create mediated lines of dialogue between residents of the encampments and surrounding neighbors through which routine conflict and annoyances can be resolved;
- Avoid displacing residents of the encampments without first offering alternative living arrangements, including non-shelter options;
- Explore creative, short-term solutions to provide unhoused residents with alternative locations that reduce potential conflicts with neighbors while also providing basic facilities such as security, running water and access to bathrooms;
- Make concerted efforts to connect encampment residents with permanent supportive housing.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION

Respectfully submitted,



Rachelle Nigro
Chair,
ANC 6E

CC: Councilmember Charles Allen
Councilmember Anita Bonds
Councilmember Robert White
Councilmember Christina Henderson
Councilmember Elissa Silverman

¹ <https://v2vr.info/proposal/>